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Letter dated 3 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the month of January 2008 (see annex). In accordance with the note by the President of the Council dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451), this assessment was prepared under my responsibility, following consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Giadallah A. **Ettalhi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 March 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the Presidency of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (January 2008)

Introduction

This assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of January 2008 has been prepared under the supervision and responsibility of its President during that month, Giadallah Azouz Ettalhi, Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations. Libya carried out its responsibilities as Council President with a renewed commitment to the essential work of the United Nations and the principles of the Charter.

On 3 January, the President briefed the press on the provisional programme of work of the month as agreed upon in the first consultations of the whole held by the Council and the programme was updated daily on the presidency website. The President gave regular informal briefings to non-members of the Council and met representatives of the broader membership of the United Nations.

The first month of the year was an active month, and the Security Council was heavily engaged in a number of sensitive issues in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. It considered the situations in the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Iraq, the Middle East, Kosovo and Abkhazia, Georgia. The Council was also engaged in other matters relating to the Council's subsidiary bodies.

The Council held 13 meetings and met in consultations of the whole on 13 occasions. It unanimously adopted three resolutions, issued three communiqués and two presidential statements, and agreed on 10 statements delivered by the President to the press.

Africa

Central African Republic, Chad and the subregion

On 7 January, in consultations of the whole, the Secretariat introduced the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/739), and briefed Council members on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and the European Union force there (EUFOR).

Following the consultations, a statement to the press was delivered by the President, in which the Council members welcomed the progress made in the deployment of MINURCAT and encouraged contributors to make available to MINURCAT and EUFOR the personnel and resources required for the implementation of their mandates. They expressed their serious concern at the recent upsurge of activities of the illegal armed groups in western Darfur and in eastern Chad, and at the resulting tension between the Sudan and Chad. The Council members called on the two countries to exercise restraint, and called on all parties in

the said countries to respect their commitments, in particular in the Tripoli Agreement of 3 February 2006, the Riyadh Agreement of 3 May 2007 and the Sirte Agreement of 25 October 2007.

On 29 January, the President informed the Secretary-General that the Council members took note of his intention to appoint Victor Da Silva Angelo (Portugal) as his Special Representative and Head of MINURCAT (S/2008/52 and S/2008/53).

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 January, in consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Côte d'Ivoire, Choi Young-Jin, presented the fifteenth progress report of the Secretary-General (S/2008/1), briefed Council members on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and reported the progress achieved in implementing the key tasks set out in the Ouagadougou Agreement of 4 March 2007. On the same day the Council held its 5819th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to UNOCI. The Special Representative briefed the Council and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries. Following an exchange of views an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.5819).

On 15 January, the Council held its 5820th meeting; the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Guillaume Bailly-Niagri, participated in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1795 (2008), by which it decided to renew the mandates of UNOCI and the French forces which support it, as determined in resolution 1739 (2007), until 30 July 2008.

Sudan

On 9 January, the Council held its 5817th meeting to consider the reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, presented the report of the Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) (S/2007/759). In a detailed briefing, the Under-Secretary-General reported the deterioration in security in Darfur and the deployment challenges facing UNAMID in spite of the modest momentum created by the transfer of authority to it on 31 December. He explained the circumstances of the attack of 7 January on a UNAMID convoy.

On the same day, the Council held consultations of the whole to discuss the item, and the Council members continued consultations on a text of a presidential statement.

On 11 January, at its 5818th meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/1), by which it, inter alia, condemned in the strongest possible terms the 7 January attack by elements of the Sudanese Armed Forces, as confirmed by UNAMID, on a UNAMID supply convoy. The Council welcomed the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to undertake a complete and full investigation into the incident, together with the United Nations and the African Union. The Council called on the Government of the Sudan to expedite full compliance with resolution 1769 (2007) and reiterated that an inclusive political settlement and the successful deployment of UNAMID are essential for re-establishing peace and stability in Darfur.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 30 January, in consultations of the whole, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Dmitry Titov, presented the twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/671) and briefed the Council on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC).

On the same day the Council held its 5828th meeting, at which the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Atoki Ileka, participated in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1797 (2008), by which it authorized MONUC, in close coordination with international partners and the United Nations country team, to provide assistance to the Congolese authorities, including the National Independent Electoral Commission, in the organization, preparation and conduct of local elections, as recommended in the letters of the Secretary-General dated 11 October and 30 November 2007.

At the same meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2008/2) in which it, inter alia, congratulated President Kabila, the organizers and the participants in the Goma Peace Conference (6-23 January), on the success of that event. It also reiterated the importance of the joint communiqué signed in Nairobi on 9 November 2007 by the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. The Council called on concerned parties to fully implement all their commitments and encouraged MONUC to support such implementation.

Ethiopia and Eritrea

On 25 January, in consultations of the whole, the Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Ethiopia and Eritrea, Azouz Ennifar, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2008/40), and briefed the Council on recent developments and the tense security situation in the Temporary Security Zone and adjacent areas. He pointed out that, owing to the restrictions imposed on the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), inter alia, the stoppage of fuel, the Mission would not be able to continue its work for more than two weeks. After this time, relocation of the Mission would have to be considered.

The Council members continued their exchange of views, expressing deep concern about the continuing dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. In a letter dated 29 January 2008 addressed to the President (S/2008/54), the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Eritrea informed the Council of Eritrea's views on the situation.

On 30 January, at its 5829th meeting, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1798 (2008), by which it decided to extend the mandate of UNMEE for a period of six months, until 31 July 2008, and expressed its willingness to reconsider any changes to the UNMEE mandate in the light of subsequent developments in the implementation of the Algiers Agreements.

On 25 January, the Council held its 5826th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to UNMEE. The Acting Special Representative briefed Council members and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries. Following an exchange of views an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.5826).

Kenya

On 30 January, in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Council on the recent Kenya crisis. After the consultations, the President spoke to the press, stating that the Council members deplored the continuing violence following the disputed elections, which has resulted in extensive loss of life and serious humanitarian consequences, and expressed concern about the safety of the many United Nations personnel in Kenya. The Council members underlined their full support for the efforts of the Panel of Eminent African Personalities, led by Kofi Annan, in seeking a political solution to the crisis and urged Kenya's leaders to engage fully and constructively to secure a political solution.

Asia and the Middle East

Iraq

On 21 January, the Council held its 5823rd meeting, at which the Permanent Representative of Iraq, Hamid Al Bayati, participated, in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure.

During the meeting, the Council heard two briefings, one by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Staffan de Mistura, who presented the latest report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1770 (2007) on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) (S/2008/19), and the other by the Permanent Representative of the United States, Zalmay Khalilzad, on behalf of the multinational force in Iraq. The Special Representative defined the priority areas for UNAMI and noted that the recent reduction in violence would not last in the absence of political consensus. The representative of the United States described the decline in the number of security incidents as a result of a change in the force's strategy and an expansion of the role of the Iraqi security forces, and stated that UNAMI had contributed substantially to helping to develop Iraq.

The members of the Council stressed the need to ensure full implementation of resolution 1770 (2007), welcomed the improvement in the security situation and underlined the importance of the national political consensus on outstanding issues (see S/PV.5823).

On 23 January, the Secretary-General transmitted to the President a full report outlining the progress made with respect to the termination of operations relating to letters of credit under the oil-for-food programme. The report was prepared by the Working Group set up by the Secretariat and the Government of Iraq (S/2008/41).

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 22 January, the Council held its 5824th meeting following a request for an "urgent meeting" submitted by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia, in his capacity as Chairman of the Group of Arab States (S/2008/31). The representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Arab Group, Slovenia on behalf of the European Union and Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the Permanent Observers

for Palestine and the League of Arab States, participated in the meeting, in accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the provisional rules of procedure.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the latest developments, stressing the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel, and urged Israel to allow delivery of fuel and basic necessities to the Palestinians (see S/PV.5824).

Over the following days, the Council members held a series of thorough consultations. Although the consultations provided the opportunity for a useful exchange of views, no agreement on a draft presidential statement could be reached.

On 30 January, the Council held its 5827th meeting to hear the monthly briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The representatives of Israel, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations participated in the meeting, in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure and the practice of the Council.

The Under-Secretary-General briefed the Council highlighting the latest developments in the crisis in the Gaza Strip. On Lebanon, he indicated that the repeated postponements of the presidential elections continued to constitute a source of further instability and security concerns. He summarized the assessment and noted that the past month had underlined the gap between aspirations towards Middle East peace and the grim realities on the ground.

After the briefing, statements were delivered by the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, the representative of Israel, Council members and the representatives of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Council members agreed in general with the assessment of the situation.

Lebanon

On 18 and 30 January, the President of the Security Council delivered statements to the press, in which the Council members strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Beirut on 15 and 25 January and underlined the importance of bringing to justice the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of those attacks. The President also delivered a statement to the press on 11 January, in which the members of the Council strongly condemned the attack on 8 January which targeted the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

On 31 January, the President informed the Secretary-General that Council members, having carefully considered the request of the Government of Lebanon (S/2008/60), referred to resolutions 1644 (2005) and 1748 (2007) and invited the International Independent Investigation Commission to extend appropriate technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation of the murder committed on 25 January (S/2008/61).

Nepal

On 18 January, in consultations of the whole, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal, Ian Martin, presented the Secretary-General's report (S/2008/5), and briefed the Council on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), as outlined in resolution 1740 (2007).

He stressed the importance of the assistance provided by the Mission to the organization of elections for the Constituent Assembly, and outlined the developments in the peace process following the signing by the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 21 November 2006.

On 23 January, the Council held its 5825th meeting, at which the Permanent Representative of Nepal, Madhu Raman Acharya, participated in accordance with rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. The Council unanimously adopted resolution 1796 (2008), by which it decided, following the request from the Government of Nepal (S/2007/789) and based on the Secretary-General's recommendation, to renew the mandate of UNMIN, as set out in resolution 1740 (2007), until 23 July 2008. The Council called on all parties to maintain momentum in implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and to work together to progress to Constituent Assembly elections, scheduled for 10 April.

Myanmar

On 17 and 18 January, in consultations of the whole, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar, Ibrahim Gambari, briefed the Council.

Following the consultations, the President delivered a statement to the press, in which the members of the Council reiterated their full support for the efforts of the Special Adviser and regretted the slow rate of progress so far. They underlined the importance of making further progress towards meeting the objectives set out in the Council presidential statement of 11 October 2007, noting that an early visit to Myanmar by the Special Adviser could help to facilitate this.

Europe

Kosovo

On 4 January, the Permanent Representative of Serbia submitted the comments of his Government (see S/2008/7) on the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) (S/2007/768).

On 15 January, the Council held consultations of the whole, to consider its resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999) and the Secretary-General's report on the international security presence in Kosovo (S/2008/36).

On 16 January, the Council held its 5821st meeting. The President of Serbia, Boris Tadić, participated in the debate in accordance with article 37 of the provisional rules of procedure. He outlined before the Council members the position of Serbia on the future status of Kosovo and Metohija, pointing out that resolution 1244 (1999) guaranteed Serbia's sovereignty, and called on the Council to prevent the encouragement and the adoption of unilateral action on the independence of Kosovo.

On the same day the Council held its 5822nd meeting in private. In accordance with rules 37 and 39 of the provisional rules of procedure the following participated in the consideration of the item: Boris Tadić, President of Serbia; Joachim Rücker, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK; Hashim

Thaçi; and the representatives of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Members of the Council, the President of Serbia, the Special Representative and Mr. Thaçi exchanged views, and an official communiqué was issued (S/PV.5822).

Abkhazia, Georgia

On 29 January, in consultations of the whole, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Georgia, Jean Arnault, assisted by the Chief Military Observer, Major General Niaz Muhammad Khan Khattak, presented the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2008/38). The Special Representative briefed the Council members on the implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and provided an update on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia.

Council members commended the efforts of the Mission, welcomed the improvement in the security situation and called on the sides to implement confidence-building measures, including through finalization without delay of documents on the non-use of violence and on the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. Members of the Council stressed the need to promote a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict only by peaceful means and within the framework of the Security Council resolutions.

Other issues

Bureaux of Security Council subsidiary bodies for 2008

On 3 January, in consultations of the whole, the Council members agreed to elect the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Council for the period ending 31 December 2008 (note by the President dated 3 January (S/2008/2)).

New members of the Peacebuilding Commission Organizational Committee

On 3 January, in consultations of the whole, the Security Council agreed to select, in accordance with resolution 1646 (2005), two of its elected members, Belgium and South Africa, to participate in the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Briefings and reports submitted by Council members in their capacities as Chairmen of Security Council Committees

On 3 January, in consultations of the whole, the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), Ambassador Marcello Spatafora (Italy), briefed the Council on the Committee's activities during the period from 9 October 2007 to 3 January 2008, in accordance with paragraph 12 (g) of resolution 1718 (2006). He indicated that since 9 October 2007

no information relevant for the implementation of its mandate had been brought to the attention of the Committee.

On 8 January, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, Ambassador Johan C. Verbeke (Belgium), submitted a report (S/2008/16) on the recommendations contained in the seventh report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team (S/2007/677), and a report on the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (S/2008/25).

On 11 January, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ambassador R. M. Marty Muliana Natalegawa (Indonesia), submitted a report on the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2007 (S/2008/17).

On 18 January, the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), Ambassador Mirjana Mladineo (Croatia), submitted the second report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005) (S/2008/29).

The President brought those reports to the attention of Council members.

Counter-terrorism

On 15, 18 and 25 January, in consultations of the whole, the Permanent Representatives of Italy and France briefed the Council on terrorist attacks: one in Kabul on 14 January, and two in Beirut on 15 and 25 January. The President delivered statements to the press, in which the Council members, inter alia, strongly condemned the terrorist attacks, their perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors, and expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims as well as the people and Governments of Afghanistan and Lebanon.